

## **The Random Jottings of Donald Jay from Nelson in Pendle.**

### **Cat Woman** **Bacup Weir area**

In the small town of Bacup, nestled near the Weir area, a legend of mystery and magic had long been whispered among the villagers. They spoke of a peculiar creature known as the Cat Woman, whose origins were shrouded in darkness. The tale began one fateful night on a quiet farm that sat on the outskirts of town.

The farm belonged to a hardworking couple, Mr. and Mrs. Patterson. They led a simple life, tending to their crops and livestock. One evening, as the moon cast its pale glow upon the land, they discovered a mischievous cat stealing cream from their dairy shed. Enraged by the thieving feline, Mr. Patterson picked up several stones and hurled them at the creature, hoping to scare it away.

The cat, startled by the stones, darted off into the night, narrowly escaping its pursuer. But as the stones flew through the air, fate took a peculiar turn. Some of them found their mark, striking the cat in a few places. Little did Mr. Patterson know that his actions would set in motion a series of strange events that would haunt the town for years to come.

The following day, a sense of unease settled over the neighboring farm. The farmer's wife, Mrs. Thompson, was discovered in a peculiar state. Her body was covered in unexplained bruises, as if she had been subjected to a severe beating. Shock and confusion swept through the community, and whispers of witchcraft began to fill the air. The villagers could conceive only one explanation for Mrs. Thompson's condition—the bruised woman must be the infamous Cat Woman. It was believed that she possessed the power to transform into a cat, seeking revenge on those who had wronged her kind. Fear gripped the hearts of the townspeople, and tales of the mysterious Cat Woman spread like wildfire.

As the legend grew, more and more incidents occurred. Strange sightings of a black cat prowling the moonlit streets sent chills down the spines of anyone who caught a glimpse. Farmers reported missing livestock, with signs of a feline predator's presence. Superstitions and cautionary tales began to shape the town's collective consciousness. The townsfolk lived in a state of perpetual fear, never knowing when or where the Cat Woman would strike next. Some claimed to have encountered her, describing piercing yellow eyes that glowed like embers in the night. The stories became so intertwined with reality that every hiss and every rustle in the undergrowth sent shivers down their spines.

Years passed, and the legend of the Cat Woman persisted. The townspeople remained on high alert, their eyes scanning the shadows for any sign of the elusive creature. But as time went on, the Cat Woman's presence began to fade, slowly becoming nothing more than a haunting memory of a time when fear consumed their lives.

Today, the legend of the Cat Woman lives on in the folklore of Bacup. Though no one knows the true identity of the mysterious figure, the story serves as a reminder of the power of perception and the fear that can grip a community. The tale of the Cat Woman, a witch who could transform into a cat, continues to be whispered among the inhabitants, a symbol of the town's enduring fascination with the unknown. And so, in the quiet nights of Bacup, the legend lingers, forever etched in the hearts and minds of those who dare to believe in the extraordinary.

**By Donald Jay**